A true and perfecte

Diſcourſe of the ouerthrow of certaine companies of Burgonions both horſe & foot men at Villefranche, a towne ſcituate on the borders of Champaigne, vpon the riuer of Meuze, betweene Sunday at night & Munday morning being the 4. day of Auguſt 1597. together with the certaine number of how many are ſlaine and taken priſoners.

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By W.P.

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IT is not in fewe but in many places that the hatred and ſecret enuy of the King of Spaine doth dayly and hourly ſhew it ſelf againſt the country of France, or rather the great deſire he hath to poſſeſſe the Crowne and Diadem therof, as being the faireſt peece of grounde in all Europe: But God, that vntil this time, hath kept and preſerued the ſame, will ſtill defende & maintaine it: yea, & reſtore it, vnto the priſtinate glory and ſplendor therof: wherof he faileth not to put vs ſtil in comfort, by diuers and ſundry effectes, and thoſe in many places, as now lately at Villefranche a ſmall towne ſcituate vppon the riuer of

Meuze, betweæn Astehay and Dun, townes belonging to Monsieur de Corraine, and about seauen small miles distant from the Towne of Sedan. This towne is verie little, and was in time past built by King Francis the first, in forme foure square like a sconce, seeming rather a small Forte to holde a court of Guard then a towne, which he caused to be made only to hinder the incursions of the Burgonions into the Country of Champaigne. In the last Ciuill wars, it was taken by the Duke of Lorraine, & since that time by certain composition & agreæment made, deliuered vp againe vnto the King of France, the gouernor thereof at this present is one Monsieur de Tremelet a Gentleman of that Country, whose valor and fidelite is much renowmed, through the seruices by him done & accomplished for his Maiestie, during his warres namely vnder the Regiment of Monsieur the Duc de Neuers. The Garrison hee hath vnder him within the town, is three companies offoot & one of horsme. The Burgonians (for so all that serue ỳ king of Spaine in those parts are called, namly those of the Duchie of Luxemburg,) which of long time haue desired to set foote in the country of Champaigne, wherin they make daily incursions, addressing all their intents & Forts against the townes scituate on the riuer of Meuze, as Meziers, Seda, Mouzon, Villefranche, or rather Rocroy & Maubert fontaine, which are not far frō them, as yet could neuer attaine vnto their purpose, through the diligent watch and prouident care, by the gouernors thereof dayly had & maintained.

tayned. And perceiuing that by policie and armes they could not preuaile, they thought to proue if treason would worke anie better effect: which likewise in ỹ end returned vpon thẽselues. Of late they haue ſtil aymed at Villefranche, as a moſt fit plate for their entrance into Champaigne: & for the ſame cauſe addreſſed themſelues to certain ſoldiers of ỹ garriſon, with manie Spaniſh promiſes to make them rich for euer, if they would deliuer the towne into their hands. Thoſe ſoldiers ſeemed to yeeld to their requeſt, but imparted it to Monſieur de Tremelet their Gouernour: who conſidering what good might follow for the Kings ſeruice, together with the counſel of other Gouernors heere him, commaunded thoſe ſoldiers that had made it vnto him, to go forward with Captaine Gauchet, (hiding the matter from the Burgonians before that he laid the plot). This Gauchet is an aduenturous ſoldier, yet within theſe ten yeres that he hath vſed warres, it hath bẽn his fortune to attaine to the reputation of a Captaine, & at this time ſerueth vnder the K. of Spaine, although by birth either a Frenchman or a Lorraine. On this commaundement of Tremelets the ſoldiers agreed with Gauchet both of the time, howeer & meanes, when and how they would deliuer the towne, receiuing of him ſome readie money, with promiſe of more vpon the obtaining the ſame. The time appointed was vpon Sunday night being the 3. of Auguſt, and Munday morning following. In the meane time Monſieur de Tremelet ſlept not,

but sent vnto the Gouernors of the townes about him for some of their souldiers to helpe in a case so needfull. Which Monsieur le Conte de grandpre, Monsieur de Rumesnil, and Monsieur De Estingue Gouernors of the townes of Mouzon, Maubert & sedan willingly agreed vnto, some lending him their owne persons, and some their souldiers. For Monsieur de Rumesnil an old yet valiant Gentleman, toke the charge to lead the troopes of the neighbouring garrisons, and comming to sedan the 3. of August, departed in the Euening from thence towards Villesranche, sending certayne footmen into the towne, and ambushed with the rest of his foote and horse about halfe a mile off, on the same side where Gauchet and his troops must passe. The signe giuen by the souldiers of Villefranche vnto Gauchet, whereby hee should know when to enter the towne, was a cannon shot: & the like to Monsieur de Rumesnil to issue out of his Ambuscado. Now when the time drew on that the thing must bee effected, euerie man prepared himselfe. Gauchet caused all his horsmen to alight a quarter of a mile from Villefranche, to conduct them vnto the Ditches, and from thence by the souldiers meanes into the towne. And Monsieur de Rumesnil prepared to charge them behind. To conclude, the signes were giuen, and all Gauchets men that entred the towne or the ditches, were slaine or sent flying into the ayre by certaine Instruments of wild fire made for the same purpose,

or

or drowned in the ditches. Mean while Gauchet that made haſt to folow thoſe that had entred the towne, was much amazed that he and his troops were charged behinde: and had it not bæn that one led his horſe after him (whether it were done by policie or good fortune it is not knowen) hee had likewiſe ſtaied behinde: but he got on horſe-backe, and ſaued himſelfe by flying. At this ouerthrow there was ſlain to the number of 300 and 120. taken priſoners. All the Leaders and Captaines except Gauchet were ſlaine, and all theyr horſes taken: ſo that of betweene fiue or ſixe hundred men that the ſaid Gauchet brought thether, there eſcaped not aboue fiftie, which ſaued themſelues by the fauor of the night. A moſt happie ouerthrow for his Maieſties ſeruice, beeing done without the loſſe of anie man: which will procure great peace, quietnes and meanes vnto the Countrey to gather in their harueſt with more ſecuritie about the Frontiers of Champaigne. In this ſort doo all the enemies both of God and the Countrey of France periſh and decay: but ſuch as loue God and publike peace, are like the Sun when it is in greateſt force.

FINIS.